(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) if not, in what manner Government concluded that connectivity was functional while almost throughout February, 2000, dialling Nalanda Code drew flock and call used to elecit no response whatsoever;

(d) whether Government would enquire into the matter to find out the truth and punish the officers responsible for furnishing misleading information; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Technical staff are posted for testing of the systems as per schedule.

(c) The connectivity between Nalanda and Bihar Sarif was functional. However, there was some intermittent trouble in the optical fire cable system. This was subsequently rectified. The system is stable since mid February, 2000. Bihar Telecom Circle is keeping a special watch over the system.

(d) & (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Sankhya Vahini India Limited Joint Venture

3242. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of 'Giga-Deal in trouble' as published in India Today, March 17, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government has solemnised the joint venture called Sankhya Vahini India Limited, in the Cabinet meeting on January 19, 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for handling over the Management of SVIL to IU Net even though the Government of India will be holding 51 per cent equity in the venture;

(e) whether the technology offered by IU Net is unique and exclusive; and

(f) if not, the details of other companies as suggested in the news-item and details of efforts to exercise other options?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The article appeared in India Today, March 27, 2000.

(b) and (c) Cabinet, in its meeting held on 19th January, 2000 approved the proposal for Incorporation of Sankhya Vahini India Limited (SVIL), a joint venture company in India, under Indian Companies Act, 1956, by DTS (Government of India) with IUNet Inc. (a company incorporated by Carnegie Mellon University of USA) and other shareholders (Department of Electronics (MIT); and Indian Educational Institutions such as IIT, Mumbai and Chennai; IISC, Bangalore and IIT, Hyderabad whose participation is approved by Minsitry of Human Resource Development).

(d) The proposed Indian equity is as follows:—

Department of Telecom Services	:	45%
Educational Institutions	:	4%
Department of Electronics(MIT)	:	2%

The IU Net equity will be 49%.

The management of SVIL will be through a Company Board with equal number of representation from DTS & IU Net, amongest others. A qualified professional shall be appointed by the Company Board as Managing Director of the Company for managing the business affairs of the company under the supervision, control and direction of the Board.

(e) and (f) CMU is an outstanding research university with many achievement in Information Technology to its credit. While the equipment may be procured from among available vendors. IUNet brings with it the knowledge of CMU in the areas of high speed networking and computing, which are essential before the proposed high speed data equipment can be put to effective use.

MoU between DoT and IU Net for Sankhya Vahini Project

3243. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned 'Giga-Deal in trouble' published in India Today of March 17th, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the MoU for the Sankhya Vahini project between the